



British Columbia Community Profile...

Mayne Island

Overview

Mayne Island is located among British Columbia's southern Gulf Islands, approximately halfway between Vancouver's Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island. A tranquil, seaside community with a reputation for friendliness and hospitality, Mayne Island's landscape is a pleasant mix of farmland, beaches and west coast forests. The beauty and serenity of the surroundings inspire the many fine artists, artisans, writers and filmmakers who make this scenic island their home. Recreational activities on Mayne include cycling, hiking, fishing, camping, canoeing, kayaking and workshops with local artists.

Accessibility

Mayne Island is accessible by a regularly scheduled car and passenger ferry service (approx. 1 hour in duration) from Vancouver and Swartz Bay near the city of Victoria on Vancouver Island. Regularly scheduled seaplane and water taxi service into the island is also available.

History

First Nations originally inhabited Mayne Island, thousands of years ago. During the 18th century, Spanish explorers visited the area resulting in place names such as Galiano and the San Juan Islands. During the 1850s, British Captain George Richards of the Royal Navy named the island after his lieutenant, Richard Charles Mayne. In 1859, the earliest homesteaders registered land claims, which became the commercial and social centre of the Gulf Islands. Agriculture played an important role in the island's history with the establishment of working farms in the late 1800s. Mayne was known for its apple and tomato production.





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Economy

Whereas agriculture supported early settlers on the islands, today tourism and the arts predominate. A number of inns, cottages, and bed and breakfasts, as well as a variety of services, shops, and galleries, are located throughout the island, particularly near Miners Bay. Some farming continues today producing a variety of agricultural products and livestock.

Population Profile

The population of Mayne Island is approximately 1112 people with seasonal fluctuations at times up to 2,000.

Climate

Mayne Island enjoys long, sunny summers and mild winters with moderate rainfall. Summer temperatures average around 22 degrees Celsius and winter temperatures around 8 degrees Celsius, rarely falling below freezing. Annual rainfall averages around 800 mm. It seldom snows on Mayne Island.

Housing

Living accommodations on Mayne Island include houses and cottages (some with acreages and/or views) for purchase and for rent.

The average cost of a home on Mayne Island ranges \$400,000–\$500,000. Two to three-bedroom inland homes and cottage can be rented for \$850 - \$1000 a month, in limited supply.

Education/Daycare

Mayne Island has one combined elementary/secondary school offering programming from Kindergarten to grade 11. It serves students from Mayne, Saturna and Galiano Islands. Older students travel by water taxi to Saltspring Island. Some daycare services are available for small children.



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Recreation

Recreational facilities on Mayne Island include tennis courts, a baseball diamond, school basketball courts, a pitch and putt golf course, and several parks.

With its lush forests, quiet farms, rock-strewn beaches and ocean views, Mayne Island is an ideal setting for hiking, cycling, swimming, boating, fishing, kayaking, bird-watching or simply relaxing and taking in the scenery. Over 250 different wild flowers grow here, from blue-eyed Marys to wild roses and rare orchids

Special events on the island include an annual Christmas Eve bonfire and caroling event, a fall fair, Canada Day Celebrations, a Mayne Island Music Festival and more.

Culture

Mayne Island is home to a lively arts community including painters, potters, carvers and fabric artists and there are numerous studios and galleries located here. The local concert society and theatre group put on performances and plays for the enjoyment of residents.

Services & Amenities

The commercial centre of Mayne Island is concentrated in Miners Bay, which is a hub of marine traffic from nearby Active Pass. Amenities include grocery stores, an automatic teller machine, restaurants, a library, a hardware and building supply store, a gas station, and postal services. The services of a dentist, lawyer, veterinarian, accountant and notary public are also available. During the summer months, the community hosts a Saturday farmer's market.



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Health Authority

Mayne Island is part of the South Island health service delivery area of Vancouver Island Health. Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) provides healthcare services that include acute care facilities, mental health & addictions, environmental and public health, home, and community care. For comprehensive information on

Vancouver Island Health Authority, visit their website (see Internet References below).

Internet References

BritishColumbia.com

<http://www.britishcolumbia.com/regions>

Mayne Island Community Website

<http://www.mayneisland.com>

Gulf Islands Online

<http://www.gulfislands.net>

Vancouver Island Health

<http://www.viha.ca>

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